

Shepherd Ah-Nei Recreation Area

FY 2012 Accomplishments and FY 2013 Proposed Projects

This popular recreation area (pronounced “Shepherd ah-knee”) has a variety of uses. One portion is used almost exclusively for off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding and consists of about 50 miles of trails on 1,062 acres. The other portion, about 4,000 acres, offers hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, picnicking, and bird watching opportunities.

FY 2012 Accomplishments

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 the BLM conducted the following projects:

Although the OHV Use Area was closed due to fire restrictions from June 28, 2012 through September 23, 2012, the remainder of the recreation area was open. Public use numbers throughout the recreation area still had consistent use patterns, with a slight upward trend in non-motorized use and a stable pattern in OHV use. Weather events closed the OHV Area three times in the winter of 2012 for short periods only.

Using a Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) crew and BLM staff, the Billings Field Office constructed three new parking lots along CA road at existing trail staging points for improved all-weather access. These parking lots have a gravel surface and perimeter jack-leg fencing and signing.

The BLM also improved 5 miles of existing but non-designated non-motorized trails in the Recreation Area to meet government standards.

A week of trail maintenance and repair in the OHV Use Area was done using a MCC crew and BLM staff, removing hazard trees, old junk and barbed wire, as well as repairing several fences and eroded trail segments.

The BLM graded the existing gravel parking lots at the OHV Use Area and at the main Day Use Area.

Updated and replaced the signing on the Kiosks at the OHV Area and the Day Use Area, as well as handouts available at the local BLM office and online information.

The BLM acquired and installed several picnic tables at the OHV Staging Area.

Law Enforcement Rangers and recreation staff conducted routine monitoring for unauthorized use, information services, and safety services.

FY 2013 Upcoming Projects

The Billings Field Office has acquired and will install two 12 x 12 shade structures on concrete pads for the picnic tables at the OHV Staging Area.

The MCC crew and BLM staff will install three equestrian friendly walk-in gates at fence lines along the non-motorized trails for easier access.

The BLM staff and a local landowner will continue to work on a land exchange proposal for public lands and adjacent lands in the Recreation Area. The lands the BLM intends to acquire would be added to the OHV Use Area for additional riding experiences and opportunities.

The BLM staff intends to remove the storage trailer located at the OHV parking lot since it has been vandalized and is no longer used.

BLM staff will update the Shepherd Ah-Nei business plan in conformance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act requirements for 5 year reviews. No changes in the fee structures and no fee increases are expected.

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